



March 19, 1999

Mr. Dennis R. Downs
State of Utah
Bureau of Solids & Hazardous Waste Management
P. O. Box 2500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2500

Re: Ownership Change of Hecla Mining Company's Escalante Unit –
Mine/Mill Hazardous Material Number UTD000710798

Dear Mr. Perry:

Hecla Mining Company no longer owns the mine and mill complex and the associated property at Escalante. Except for the tailing impoundment, the property has been sold to Dixie Cable Services. Hecla retains the responsibility for the tailing impoundment, the surrounding fence, and final reclamation of the access road to the impoundment. According to a 1998 study, vegetative growth on the impoundment has over 40 percent cover. At the current growth rate, the required 70 percent vegetative cover should be reached by next year.

It is our understanding the State of Utah rather than the Environmental Protection Agency issues the mine identification numbers. Because, control of the mine/mill site has been officially transferred to Dixie Cable Services, Hecla Mining Company would like to retire the mine identification number (UTD000710798) for the unit. The new owners are planing to use the property for purposes other than mining. Separate from the mine/mill complex and associated property, Hecla will retain the tailing impoundment and continue to monitor permit (M/021/004) requirements until the growth median meets the necessary vegetative cover.



If you have any questions please contact my at Hecla Mining Company's corporate office.

Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David O. Suhr".

David O. Suhr

Idle Properties Mgr.

cc: Larry Drew, Environmental Manager
Wayne Hedberg, Dept of Natural Resources